



WEEK
THREE
SEPTEMBER 2020

LARGE GROUP
K-5
STARTER

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

NOTE: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Friend Like Me

Elijah and Elisha

1 Kings 19:14-21; 2 Kings 2:1-15

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends encourage one another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

A friend loves at all times.

**They are there to help
when trouble comes.**

Proverbs 17:17, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Friendship—Using your words and actions to show others you care

BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.**

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener

Worship ("Lift My Voice" from *Can't Stop, Won't Stop* and "Friend Like You" from *This Love*)

Bible Story

Bottom Line

Prayer

Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: SHA-JAH Jump

Application Activity: Classic Carry

Memory Verse Activity: A Pat on the Back

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

GodTime devotional for kids

Studio252.tv

Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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**Friendship—Using your words and
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BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.**

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Leader enters with lots of enthusiasm and energy, perhaps wearing a party hat and carrying a balloon or other party accessories.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

LEADER: "Hi, friends! Welcome back to the [your environment's name] block party! It's been a super-fun month celebrating with you. I love a good party—especially when EVERYONE'S invited! Everyone is always welcome in [your environment's name], of course, and this month we're really celebrating because we're talking about something super-awesome: friendship!"

SLIDE: LIFE APP

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

"Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

"Friendship is worth throwing a big party for, don't you think?"

"One of my favorite party games is limbo, and today we're adding a fun friendship twist. When it's your turn to dance under the stick, if you fall down or hit the stick, you're NOT out. Instead, you just move into the second phase of the game: cheering on the remaining dancers!"

"You'll come over to this box (*hold up the 'Box o' Cheer'*) and pick out something fun to use to cheer on the people still dancing under the limbo stick. There are all sorts of fun things in here, so just pick one thing and use it to encourage your friends still in the game!"

"Everyone, on your feet. Let's limbo!"



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AUDIO: FUN MUSIC (FRIENDSHIP-THEMED SONGS)

Hold up the limbo stick with your fellow volunteer. As kids get 'out,' remind them to go pick something from the Box o' Cheer and come back to cheer on everyone else. When you're ready to end the game, announce that you're giving each remaining person one more turn, then end it.

"I can't decide what you all are better at—the limbo or the cheering! I loved seeing you encourage and cheer on each other.

Collect the Box o' Cheer items and place them back in the box.

"Now, let's keep the fun going as we sing and worship God!"



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WORSHIP

LEADER: “Listen to these words from Psalm 47:1: *Clap your hands, all you nations. Shout to God with cries of joy.* (NirV) That sounds like a party, doesn’t it? God fills us with His joy as we follow Him every day. Let’s clap, sing, and dance as we praise Him together.

AUDIO: “I’VE GOT JOY” / TRACK 3 FROM CAN’T STOP WON’T STOP

“Jesus is an amazing friend. He loves us more than we could ever imagine! No matter what’s going on around us, He fills our hearts with joy, hope, and peace.

“Not only that, He can help us share His love with others—like it says in our memory verse for this month, Proverbs 17:17 (NirV).

SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE SLIDE

“A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.

“Let’s sing to Jesus now, and thank Him for being our good and faithful friend!”

AUDIO: “FRIEND LIKE YOU” / TRACK TBD FROM THIS LOVE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): “THIS LOVE” DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “Before we get started on the story, I’ve got some party supplies here so you can help me tell it. We’ve got these fun pom poms made from party streamers.

Hand out the pom poms—one ‘water’ pom pom and one ‘fire’ pom pom for each kid. Keep talking as you hand them out.

“These pom poms represent water (*hold up one of the green and blue pom poms*) . . . and fire (*hold up one of the red, yellow, and orange pom poms*). When you hear me say a water word—like ‘river’ or ‘rain’—you’ll shake this one (*shake the water pom pom*). When I mention fire words of any kind—like ‘blazing,’ ‘flaming,’ or ‘fire,’ you’ll shake this one (*shake the fire pom pom*). Cool? Cool.

“These pom poms are great for cheering someone on. That’s what friends do! Encouragement from a friend can really get us through hard times.

“I have a great story for you about two men who really lived out that part of friendship. (*Hold up Bible.*) It comes from the books of 1 and 2 Kings. These books are history books. They tell the story of God’s people before Jesus came to earth.

“In these books, we can read about the kings who ruled God’s people after King David. While a few of these kings followed God . . . most of them did not. Sadly, the kingdom fell apart. But God still cared about His people. He loved them so much that He sent prophets to speak His words. One of these prophets was a man named Elijah.”

Note: You may want to have a printed script for quick reference, so you can be sure to say each of the cue lines for the pom poms.

ELIJAH AND ELISHA

LEADER: “Elijah lived an incredible life. He did amazing things through God’s power, like bringing RAIN (cue the kids to shake their ‘water’ pom poms) to the kingdom after three years of drought. He also brought a boy who had died back to life!

“But being a prophet was a difficult, lonely life. Elijah cried out to God. Listen to what He said.

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 19:14 (NirV) and read.

“Lord God who rules over all, I’ve been very committed to you. The Israelites have turned their backs on your covenant. They have torn down your altars. They’ve put your prophets to death with their swords. I’m the only one left.

“God heard Elijah’s prayer. He knew that Elijah needed encouragement, so He sent Elijah to choose another prophet.

(Clearing your throat) “Ahem . . . I said, ‘He sent Elijah to choose another prophet.’



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Helper enters. (This can be the same person who helped with the limbo game in the Opener.)

"Excellent! The man God chose was named Elisha. I know . . . that's a little confusing. Eli-JAH and Eli-SHA. So I've got hats.

Pull out the 'J' and 'S' hats.

"Get it? J for Eli-JAH, and S for Eli-SHA.

Put the 'J' hat on, as well as the coat. Put the 'S' hat on the helper.

"Elijah found Elisha plowing in the fields. That means Elisha had a machine, pulled by animals, that would tear up the earth so he could plant seeds. Elijah threw his coat around Elisha's shoulders.

Take off the coat, then put it on 'Elisha's' shoulders.

"This was a sign that God had chosen Elisha to be his assistant. Then, Elijah walked away.

Walk a few steps in place.

"Elisha ran after him.

Elisha slow-motion runs in place.

"He said he needed to say goodbye to his mom and dad, then he would come along. Elisha broke apart his plow.

If your limbo stick was a breakable stick from outside, toss it to Elisha. Elisha breaks it into pieces and places them campfire-style on the ground.

"He used the pieces to start a FIRE (*cue the kids to shake their 'fire' pom poms*). He cooked a meal and called all his friends and family to share it with him. Then, he left to follow Elijah."

ELISHA WON'T LEAVE

LEADER: "Over the next few years, Elisha followed Elijah everywhere as his closest friend and companion.

"Elisha watched and listened as Elijah spoke God's words to powerful kings and did incredible things in God's name.

"One day, the two men left the town of Gilgal, traveling toward Bethel. They both knew that some time very soon, God was going to take Elijah up to heaven.

"Along the way, Elijah told Elisha to stay there; he was going to continue on his own. Let's see what Elisha had to say about that."

ELISHA opens the Bible to 2 Kings 2:2 (NIRV) and reads.

ELISHA: "I won't leave you. And that's just as sure as the Lord and you are alive."



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LEADER: "So . . . they both went to Bethel.

"While they were at Bethel, the same thing happened. Elijah was heading out to Jericho, and he told Elisha to stay put. Let's see what Elisha said this time."

Elisha opens the Bible to 2 Kings 2:4 (NIRV) and reads.

ELISHA: "I won't leave you. And that's just as sure as the Lord and you are alive."

LEADER: "So . . . they both went to Jericho.

"While the men were at Jericho, the exact same thing happened! Elijah was heading out to the Jordan RIVER (cue the kids to shake their 'water' pom poms), and he told Elisha to stay put. Let's see what Elisha said this time."

Elisha opens the Bible to 2 Kings 2:6 (NIRV) and reads.

ELISHA: "I won't leave you. And that's just as sure as the Lord and you are alive."

LEADER: "So . . . they both went to the Jordan RIVER."

ELIJAH GOES TO HEAVEN

LEADER: "Together, the men reached the Jordan RIVER. Elijah rolled up his coat.

Take the coat off of Elisha and roll it up tightly.

"He struck the WATER with it (*strike the air with the coat*), and the WATERS split in two. The two men walked across on dry ground! (*Unroll the coat and put it on.*) God's power was so strong with Elijah that he could stop a rushing RIVER!

"When they climbed up the opposite bank, Elijah stopped to offer one final encouragement to his friend. He told Elisha that if he saw him when he was taken away, Elisha would receive a double share of the Spirit God had given Elijah.

"The two men kept walking and talking together. Suddenly, a chariot and horses made of FIRE appeared and came between the two men! The BLAZING chariot carried Elijah up to heaven in a strong wind. WHOA. As Elijah was carried to heaven, Elisha called out, 'You are like a father to me!'" (2 Kings 2:12, NIRV)

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: "Elisha was heartbroken that his friend was gone. But then, he saw that Elijah's coat had been left behind.

Drop the coat on the ground.

"Elisha picked it up (*Elisha picks up the coat*), and hurried back to the Jordan RIVER. He struck the WATER with Elijah's coat.

Elisha rolls up the coat and strikes the air with it.

"Sure enough, the WATER split in two—just like it had for Elijah!



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

“Elisha went across the RIVER while a group of prophets from Jericho were watching this all unfold. They saw that God’s Spirit was now with Elisha in the same way it had been with Elijah.

“Elisha would go on to do great things for God just as his friend Elijah had—thanks to God’s power and his friend’s encouragement.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Friends encourage one another.

“Great job, [helper’s name]. Thanks for helping us tell the story!

Helper (Elisha) exits.

“There so many ways you and your friends can encourage each other. When a friend is going through a hard time, or they’re nervous about something, just remember what we say in here: **[Basic Truth] I should treat others the way I want to be treated.** Encourage your friends the way YOU would want to be encouraged!

“Let’s thank God for friends who encourage us—and let’s ask Him to help us be encouragers, too.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for giving us the example of encouraging friends like Elijah and Elisha. We can see the way they stuck together and pushed each other to do the right thing . . . and we know we can encourage each other to do that, too. Help us be a good friend to others by encouraging them. Please, give us friends who encourage us as well. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



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25 MINUTES

CLOSER

LEADER: "Elijah and Elisha were prophets who performed miracles we probably won't ever see or do. But there was one thing they did that we CAN do. They encouraged one another."

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Friends encourage one another. Say that with me."

LEADER AND KIDS: "Friends encourage one another."

LEADER: "There are so many ways you can encourage your friends. Just use your imagination! If your friend has a tryout coming up for sports or theater, tell them that you believe in them and you know they can do it. Maybe you could even offer to help them practice so they feel ready."

"If your friend is sad, take time to sit with them and listen to them. If they want to be cheered up, try telling them a joke . . . playing a song you both love . . . or maybe having a random dance party. You could even make a card for a friend who's sick or going through a hard time."

"And remember, when we believe and put our faith in Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit living inside us. The Spirit encourages US . . . and helps us encourage other people, too."

"There are so many ways to encourage our friends. The possibilities are endless! I bet we can come up with even more ideas in Small Group, so let's get moving. No RIVER crossing required!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups and collect the pom poms as they exit.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP



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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (25 MINUTES)

WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

1. OPENER/CLOSER

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leader
- Adult (or student) helper
- Limbo stick (from last week; see "What You Do")
- Prop box labeled "Box o' Cheer," containing party items such as:
 - Pom poms
 - Streamers
 - Kazoos
 - Megaphones
 - Noisemakers

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun music to use during the limbo game (bonus points for friendship-themed songs)

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Slide
- Life App Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH THE 252 MEDIA PACKAGE):

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version)
- Theme
- Theme Transition to Life App
- Life App Transition to Theme

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download and print this week's tech sheet for everyone helping with Large Group.
- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen

capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.

- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. These graphic motion loops are included in the package. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- *Note on the limbo stick:* If you can find a stick from outside that's long enough to work as a limbo stick, but also able to be broken into a few pieces for the Bible story, that would be great. If not, any limbo stick is fine.
- Ask a helper to hold the limbo stick with you. This same person can be the helper in the Bible story (playing Elisha).

2. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leader(s)

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- "I've Got Joy" from *Can't Stop Won't Stop*
- "Friend Like You" from *This Love*

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Memory Verse Slide

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- "Friend Like You" Dance Moves Music Video (available through the 252 Media Package)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download all songs and have them ready to use.
- Dance Moves Music Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. The Dance Moves Music Video for the monthly worship song is included in the package. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.



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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leader
- Adult (or student) helper
- Bible
- Printed script in a binder (optional; see "What You Do")
- Prop box, containing:
 - Coat
 - Two baseball caps:
 - One labeled "J"
 - One labeled "S"
 - "Pom poms" made of streamers, one set for each kid (see "What You Do")
 - One pom pom made of blue and green streamers for each kid
 - One pom pom made of red, orange, and yellow streamers for each kid
 - Limbo stick from the Opener or some other, breakable, stick

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Make "J" and "S" labels for the ball caps and tape them to the hats.
- Make the pom poms by clipping a few small pieces of the different colored streamers together. (Each streamer piece should be about one foot long.) You can clip the pieces together using binder clips or tape.
- Recruit an adult (or student) helper to play the part of Elisha. This could be the same person who helps with the limbo game in the Opener. Give your helper a copy of the script in advance, and explain what you need him/her to do.

- *Note:* You may want to consider printing the script and putting it in a binder for the Leader to reference, so it's easier to remember all the FIRE and WATER cues in the story.

VIDEO ENHANCEMENTS FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT
AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASE AT
STORE.THINKORANGE.COM.

FEATURE PRESENTATION: Everything you need to pull off a dynamic weekly Large Group experience, including video Bible presentations to complement 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum.

Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (kindergarten through 3rd grade):

- *252 Story* brings you the Bible story in a simple and direct way through a professional Storyteller accompanied by engaging visuals.
- *Also included:* Intro and Outro videos with a character Host. The Intros set up the Bible story, while the Outros connect the story to the weekly Bottom Line. These videos are interchangeable with the live Opener and Closer, so you can use them to bookend either a live Storyteller or *252 Story*.

For 252 Preteen (4th and 5th grade):

- In *The So & So Show*, two Hosts walk you through a contemporary and comedic presentation of the Bible story. This YouTube-style show sets up the story and also connects it to the weekly Key Question for preteens.

GET REEL 2.0: Videos and graphics to enhance your 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum environments.

Four videos each month will help kids learn basic faith skills. Use them in your FX, Large Group, or as a promotional piece to show in your adult services:



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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

Discovery—Listen to God's words (HEAR)

Dear God—Dialogue with God (PRAY)

One Thing—Articulate your faith (TALK)

Live Loud—Worship with your life (LIVE)

ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENT ENHANCEMENTS INCLUDING:

- Graphic motion loops
- Themed audio transitions
- Life App and monthly widget promo videos (M.C. Haggis)
- Countdown videos (30 and 60 seconds)
- Music videos for original songs that highlight each Life App
- Retro Reel video to play on your fifth Sunday